

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

SPECIAL INFORMATION

November 2012

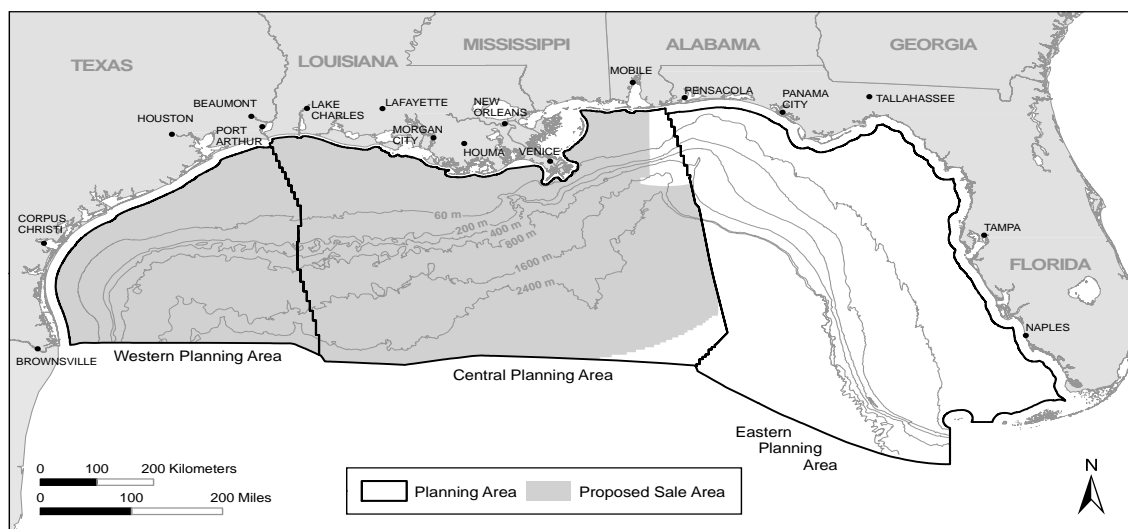
BOEM Issues Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and of Plans to Hold Public Meetings for Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Proposed Western Planning Area Lease Sale 233 and Proposed Central Planning Area Lease Sale 231

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), announces the availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on proposed Western Planning Area (WPA) Lease Sale 233 and Central Planning Area (CPA) Lease Sale 231. The two proposed oil and gas lease sales are tentatively scheduled for 2013 and 2014 respectively, under the *Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program: 2012-2017*. This Supplemental EIS updates the analyses in the *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2012-2017; Western Planning Area Lease Sales 229, 233, 238, 246, and 248; Central Planning Area Lease Sales 227, 231, 235, 241, and 247, Final Environmental Impact Statement (2012-2017 WPA/CPA Multisale EIS; OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2012-019)*.

BOEM is proposing to offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 20.8 million acres in the WPA, excluding whole and partial blocks within the boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. The BOEM is also proposing to offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 42.9 million acres in the CPA, excluding whole and portions of blocks deferred by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 and blocks that are beyond the United States Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap.

BOEM published in the July 9, 2012, *Federal Register*, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Supplemental EIS for the proposed WPA and CPA lease sales. The NOI sought input on the scope of the Supplemental EIS, which covers the proposed WPA and CPA oil and gas lease sales offshore the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Due to a typographical error on the original NOI, the public scoping period was reopened on August 24, 2012, and closed on September 10, 2012.

BOEM published in the November 9, 2012, *Federal Register*, the Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS for proposed WPA Lease Sale 233 and proposed CPA Lease Sale 231, which are tentatively scheduled to be held in 2013 and 2014, respectively. This Draft Supplemental EIS also analyzes relevant new information regarding the *Deepwater Horizon* event.



BOEM will hold public meetings to obtain comments regarding the Draft Supplemental EIS. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **Houston, Texas:** December 03, 2012, Houston Airport Marriott at George Bush Intercontinental, 18700 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77032, beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST;
- **New Orleans, Louisiana:** December 04, 2012, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123, beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST;
- **Gulfport, Mississippi:** December 05, 2012, Courtyard by Marriott Gulfport Beachfront MS Hotel, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501, beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST; and
- **Mobile, Alabama:** December 06, 2012, Five Rivers—Alabama’s Delta Resource Center, 30945 Five Rivers Boulevard, Spanish Fort, Alabama 36527, beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST.

If you cannot attend the meetings, you may submit your written comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS no later than December 24, 2012, in one of the following two ways:

1. In an envelope labeled “Comments on the WPA 233/CPA 231 Draft Supplemental EIS” to Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Regional Assessment Section, Office of Environment (GM 623E), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394; and
2. BOEM email address: LS_233-231SEIS@boem.gov.

BOEM will be printing and distributing a very limited number of paper copies. In keeping with the Department of the Interior’s mission of the protection of natural resources and to limit costs while ensuring the availability of the document to the public, BOEM will primarily distribute digital copies of the Draft Supplemental EIS on compact discs. However, if you require a paper copy, BOEM will provide one upon request if copies are still available.

1. You may obtain a copy of the Draft Supplemental EIS from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Attention: Public Information Office (GM 250I), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 250, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 (1-800-200-GULF).
2. You may download or view the Draft Supplemental EIS on BOEM’s website at <http://www.boem.gov/Environmental-Stewardship/Environmental-Assessment/NEPA/nepaprocess.aspx>.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Gary D. Goeke at (504) 736-3233.